Claims

[c1]   1. A method for managing privacy preferences or access to restricted information, comprising:
tagging restricted or personal information; and
defining a content object with a link to the restricted or personal information.

[c2]   2. The method of claim 1, wherein defining the content object comprises defining the content object as a web document or a mark-up language file.

[c3]   3. The method of claim 1, further comprising associating an xLink attribute to the restricted or personal information.

[c4]   4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the content object; and
providing access to the content object.

[c5]   5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the restricted or personal information; and
providing access to the restricted or personal information via one of an xLink or a secure connection.

[c6]   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for information;

interrogating content sources; and

collecting any content objects responsive to the request.

[c7]   7. The method of claim 6, wherein collecting any content objects responsive to the request comprises using a collection servlet.

[c8]   8. The method of claim 6, further comprising distributing any content object responsive to the request to a P3P servlet.

[c9]   9. The method of claim 6, further comprising distributing any content object responsive to the request to a privacy function.

[c10]   10. The method of claim 9, further comprising parsing privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences.

[c11]   11. The method of claim 10, further comprising locating or accessing privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences using an xLink.

[c12]   12. The method of claim of claim 9, further comprising comparing the privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences to a con-

tent provider's policies.

[c13]   13. The method of claim 12, further comprising distributing original content object to a requester in response to the privacy preferences of the author of the content object or other restriction preferences being consistent with the content provider's policies.

[c14]   14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
deleting or replacing private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the content privacy preferences of the author of the content object or other restriction preferences being inconsistent with the content provider's policies;
repackaging the content object in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information; and distributing the repacked content object to a requester.

[c15]   15. A method for managing privacy or access to restricted information, comprising:
collecting a content object responsive to a request;
accessing privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences; and
comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences to a content provider's policies.

[c16]   16. The method of claim 15, further comprising dis-

tributing the content object as originally constituted in response to the privacy preferences of the author of the content object or other restriction preferences being consistent with the content provider's policies.

[c17]   17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
deleting or replacing private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences of the author of the content object or other restriction preferences being inconsistent with the content provider's policies;
repackaging the content object in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information; and distributing the repacked content object to a requester.

[c18]   18. The method of claim 15, further comprising using a collection servlet to collect the content object responsive to the request.

[c19]   19. The method of claim 15 further comprising distributing any collected content object to a P3P servlet.

[c20]   20. The method of claim 15, further comprising distributing any content object in response to the request to a privacy function.

[c21]   21. The method of claim 20, further comprising parsing the privacy preferences of an author of the content ob-

ject or other restriction preferences.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising locating or accessing the privacy preferences or restriction preferences using an xLink.

[c23] 23. A system for managing privacy preferences or access to restricted information, comprising:
a server to collect a content object in response to a request;
a privacy function operable on the server to access privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences; and
means for comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences to a content provider's policies.

[c24] 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the privacy function distributes the content object as originally constituted in response to the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences being consistent with the content provider's policies.

[c25] 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the privacy function deletes or replaces private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences or restriction preferences being inconsistent with the content provider's policies.

[c26]   26. The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy function repackages the content object in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information.

[c27]   27. The system of claim 23, further comprising a collection function operable on the server to interrogate content sources and collect content objects from the content sources in responsive to the request.

[c28]   28. The system of claim 23, wherein the privacy function comprises a P3P servlet to access the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences via an xLink.

[c29]   29. The system of claim 28, wherein the P3P servlet comprises means for comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences to a web site or content provider's policies.

[c30]   30. The system of claim 29, wherein the P3P servlet comprises means for transmitting the content object as originally constituted to a collection servlet in response to the privacy preferences or restriction preferences being consistent with the web site or content provider's policies.

[c31]   31. The system of claim 30, wherein the P3P servlet comprises:

means for deleting or replacing private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences or restriction preferences being inconsistent with the web site or content provider's policies;

means for repackaging the content object in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information; and

means for transmitting the repackaged content object to the collection servlet in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information.

[c32]   32. A method of making a system for managing privacy preferences or access to restricted information, comprising:

providing a server to collect a content object in response to a request;

providing a privacy function operable on the server to access privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences; and

providing means for comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences to a content provider's policies.

[c33]   33. The method of claim 32, further comprising adapting the privacy function to distribute the content object as originally constituted in response to the privacy prefer-

ences or other restriction preferences being consistent with the content provider's policies.

[c34] 34. The method of claim 32, further comprising adapting the privacy function to delete or replace private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences or restriction preferences being inconsistent with the content provider's policies.

[c35] 35. The method of claim 32, further comprising providing a collection function to interrogate content sources and to collect content objects responsive to the request.

[c36] 36. The method of claim 32, further comprising providing a P3P servlet to access the privacy preferences or other restricted preferences via an xLink.

[c37] 37. The method of claim 36, further comprising adapting the P3P servlet to compare the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences to a web site or content provider's policies.

[c38] 38. The method of claim 37, further comprising adapting the P3P servlet to transmit the content object as originally constituted to a collection servlet in response to the privacy preferences or restriction preferences being consistent with the web site or content provider's policies.

[c39] 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising adapting the P3P sevlet to:

delete or replace private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences or restriction preferences being inconsistent with the web site or content provider's policies;

repackage the content object in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information; and

transmit the repackaged content object to the collection sevlet in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information.

[c40] 40. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising:

collecting a content object responsive to a request;

accessing privacy preferences of an author of the content object or other restriction preferences; and

comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences to a content provider's policies.

[c41] 41. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 40, further comprising distributing the content object as originally constituted in response to the privacy preferences of the author of the content object or other

restriction preferences being consistent with the content provider's policies.

[c42]   42. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 40,
deleting or replacing private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences of the author of the content object or other restriction preferences being inconsistent with the content provider's policies;
repackaging the content object in response to deleting or replacing the private or restricted information; and distributing the repacked content object to a requester.

[c43]   43. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 40, further comprising distributing any content object responsive to the request to a privacy function.

[c44]   44. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 43, further comprising parsing the privacy prefer-ences of an author of the content object or other restric-tion preferences.

[c45]   45. The computer-readable medium having computer

executable instructions for performing the method of claim 44, further comprising locating or accessing the privacy preferences or restriction preferences using an xLink.